

Docket No.: 122.1435

Serial No. 09/772,919

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system operating a plurality of ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~, comprising:

~~means for a measuring unit~~ measuring operating time of each of a plurality of ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~:

~~means for a determining unit~~ determining rotation candidates, among said plurality of ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~, based on ~~accumulated operating times of said respective information apparatuses with a view to equalizing the~~, accumulated operating times of ~~said respective information apparatuses and sending information apparatuses the plurality of terminal equipments with a view to equalizing the respective, accumulated operating times of said plurality of terminal equipments and sending terminal equipments-rotation messages to said rotation candidates;~~

~~means for a backup unit~~ backup processing data stored in said rotation candidate ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~ in accordance with said rotation messages; and

~~means a downloading unit~~ for downloading said data associated with one of said rotation candidate ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~ on another of said rotation candidate ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~ after the rotation between said one of said rotation candidate ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~ and said another of said rotation candidate ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~ one has been completed.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system operating a plurality of ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~ as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said ~~operating time measuring unit~~ ~~means~~ measures the operating time of each of said plurality of ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~ which have replied to operating time confirming messages, sent thereto by said ~~operating time measuring means~~, and holds a ~~respective~~ accumulated operating time for each of said plurality of ~~terminal equipments, information apparatuses~~.

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3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A The system for operating a plurality of terminal equipments information apparatuses as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising:
means for a display unit displaying said rotation messages on said respective rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses; and
means for a backup unit performing a backup process by transferring, in accordance with said displayed rotation message, said data stored in said one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses from said, one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses to another location.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An administrative unit for managing a plurality of terminal equipments, information apparatuses comprising:
a memory having backup areas where stored data, stored in said respective terminal equipments information apparatuses, can be stored separately for each of said plurality of terminal equipments information apparatuses;
an operating time measuring means-unit for measuring respective, accumulated operating times for said plurality of terminal equipments information apparatuses; and
a control means-unit for determining rotation candidates, among said plurality of terminal equipments information apparatuses, with a view to equalizing the respective, accumulated operating times of said plurality of terminal equipments information apparatuses, directing said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses to perform a backup process of said stored data and further directing said plurality of terminal equipments respective information apparatuses to resume the operation thereof after the rotation of said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses has been completed.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An administrative unit as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said operating time measuring means-unit confirms the receipt of replies to messages sent to said terminal equipments respective information apparatuses and then starts to measure the respective operating times of said plurality of terminal equipments respective information apparatuses.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An administrative unit as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said control means-unit sends terminal equipments information apparatuses rotation messages to said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses, when said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses are determined, and directs said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses to display said messages.

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7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An administrative unit for managing a plurality of terminal equipments information apparatuses, comprising:
~~means a measuring unit for measuring operating time of each of said plurality of terminal equipments information apparatuses; and~~
~~means a determining unit for determining rotation candidates among said plurality of terminal equipments information apparatuses, based on respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of terminal equipments information apparatuses, with a view to equalizing the respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of terminal equipments respective information apparatuses and notifying said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses to that effect.~~

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment information apparatus adapted to be connected to an administrative unit, comprising:
~~a memory storing whole data relevant to operating environments associated with said terminal equipment information apparatus;~~
~~a display unit displaying a terminal an information apparatus rotation message from said administrative unit;~~
~~an input unit for operating said terminal equipment information apparatus in accordance with a direction of said displayed rotation message; and~~
~~a controller unit executing a backup process of said data stored in said memory on said administrative unit by performing a rotation operation in accordance with a direction of said message.~~

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment The information apparatus as set forth in Claim 8, wherein after having executed said backup process of said data stored in said memory on said administrative unit, ~~said control means~~ controller unit downloads whole data, relevant to operating environments associated with another information apparatus associated with another terminal equipment which is backed up in said administrative unit on said memory.

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10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment The information apparatus as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said control means-unit sends a reply message, indicating that said terminal equipment-information apparatus is in operation, when said control means receives an operation confirming message.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment An information apparatuses control method, comprising:

 during a predetermined operation period for a plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses, determining rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses among said plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses based on respective accumulated operating times of said respective plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses with a view to equalizing the respective accumulated operating times of said respective plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses;

 performing a backup process of data associated with said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses; and

 performing a download process of said data associated with one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses on another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses after the rotation between said one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses and said another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses has been completed.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment information apparatus control method, comprising:

 when receiving replies from a plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatus to operation confirming messages sent thereto, measuring operating time of each of said terminal equipments-information apparatus from which said replies have been received and holding respective accumulated operating times of said respective plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses;

 determining rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses among said plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses based on the accumulated operating times with a view to equalizing the respective accumulated operating times of said respective plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses;

 sending terminal equipments-information apparatuses rotation messages to said rotation

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candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses;

backup processing stored data of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses in accordance with said messages;

downloading said data associated with one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses on another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses after the rotation between said one of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses and said another of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses has been completed; and

resuming the operation of said respective terminal equipments-information apparatuses after the rotation among all said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses has been completed.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal equipment-information apparatus control method as set forth in Claim 12, further comprising:

when terminal equipments-information apparatuses rotation messages are sent to said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses, displaying said rotation messages on said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses; and

performing in accordance with said displayed message a backup process by transferring said stored data of said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses from said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses to another location.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium having recorded therein a program for rendering a computer operable for managing a plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses, by:

measuring respective operating times of each of said plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses;

determining rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses among said plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses based on respective accumulated operating times of said plurality of terminal equipments-information apparatuses with a view to equalizing the respective accumulated times of said plurality of terminal equipments-respective information apparatuses; and

notifying said rotation candidate terminal equipments-information apparatuses to that effect.

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15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium as set forth in Claim 14, having recorded therein further a program ~~for rendering said computer operable to execute:~~

storing data transferred from said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses in response to said notice; and

transferring said stored data to said rotation candidate terminal equipments information apparatuses accordingly.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium having recorded therein a program ~~for rendering a computer connected to an administrative unit to execute:~~

receiving a computer rotation message from said administrative unit; and

performing a backup process of whole data relevant to operating environments stored in said computer onto said administrative unit through rotating operation in accordance with a direction of said message.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium as set forth in Claim 16, having recorded therein further a program ~~for rendering said computer operable to execute:~~

downloading whole data relevant to operating environments associated with another computer from said administrative unit for storage after having performed said backup process.